Irrigation Canals in the Uinta Basin,
U.S. Lake Fork Canal
Duchesne Vicinity
Duchesne County
Utah

HAER No. UT-30-D

HAER
UTAH
7-DUCH.V,
1D-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

HAER
UTAH
7-DUCH.V,
1D-

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Irrigation Canals in the Uinta Basin, U.S. Lake Fork Canal

HAER No. UT-30-D

Location:	Sections 32 T1N R4W (point of diversion from Lake Fork River) Quad: Altonah and Altamont
Date of Construction:	1890; 1905-1910
Present Owner:	Uintah Irrigation Project Fort Duchesne, Utah
Original Use:	Irrigation Canal
Present Use:	Irrigation Canal
Significance:	In the amount of lands irrigated and the total value of production of lands irrigated ($88,918 in 1937), the U.S. Lake Fork Canal is the largest and most productive of all canals constructed by the Uintah Irrigation Project. Final proof on the U.S. Lake Fork was 11,425 acres, of which 8,876 acres were patented to the Indians. Carry capacity was allowed in certain laterals to the Farmers' Irrigation Company and the Dry Gulch Irrigation Company. By 1938, however, the U.S. Lake Fork Canal was irrigating 9,724 acres of white-owned or leased land, principally around the communities of Altonah and Altamont.
Inventoried by:	James Jurale, David Stalheim, Craig Fuller National Park Service July 1983

DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY

The first water to be diverted through the Lake Fork Ditch was in 1890. The ditch was part of the "old system" and irrigated a small amount of Indian lands. In conjunction with the reservation being opened to homesteading, Captain C. G. Hall filed on Lake Fork River water for the Indians. The water was to be diverted through the U.S. Lake Fork Canal (the old Lake Fork ditch). The canal had the capacity to divert 13 second-feet of water and was designed to irrigate 11,280 acres. The canal was 28,650 feet long, 28 feet wide at the top, 12 feet wide at the bottom, and an effective depth of 2.5 feet. Water was diverted from the river through a wooden headgate with ball bearing lifts.

The cost of constructing the U.S. Lake Fork Canal was $9.25/acre. The total construction cost of 1927 was $105,743.81. It is assumed that this cost included the construction of the U.S. Lake Fork Extension Canal. The United States Indian Irrigation Service had applied for the right to divert 17.58 c.f.s. in the Extension Canal in 1905. Together, the length of the two canals amounted to 107,705 feet. Another construction program in 1938 and 1939 earmarked $2,688 for improvements to rating flumes, lateral checks and headgates. Another $2,914 was spent on enlarging and improving the canal, which included hauling and placing clay to tighten or check leaks in side hill sections of the canal. The present headgate is made of steel and concrete and was put in place sometime in the 1960s.

REFERENCES

"Certificate of Appropriation of Water," Application #402, Certificate #1171.

"John T. Burke, Project Engineer to C. C. Wright, Superintendent," Uintah Irrigation Project, May 20, 1939.

State Engineer's Office, File #43-1684, #366.

Status of Project Lands," Uintah Irrigation Project, September 30, 1933.

U. S. District Court, District of Utah, Docket #4418.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Indian Affairs, Irrigation Division, "A Study of Economic Conditions on the Uintah Irrigation Project, Utah," September 1938.